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Copy 8 of 8

21 June 1962

MEMORANDUM FOR : Chief, Contracts Division, Office of Special Activities

SUBJECT : Status of System X Development

REFERENCE : Letter to [redacted] Dated 25X1A  
11 June 1962 (P-2149)

1. I read with interest the reference dated 11 June having to do with the status for System X at the conclusion of the performance period for the engineering specifications. You indicated in a note to me that a decision was required by 22 June "as to what our crew of engineers will do on 25 June and forward".

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25X1A 2. While in my opinion the program has not ground to a halt, it is impossible at this time to authorize additional work [redacted] on System X until we have a clearer indication of what direction Project [redacted] will take within the [redacted] community. For the past ten days, we have had [redacted] with us discussing strategy and tactics of advancing the matter with [redacted] but because of the absence of [redacted] until 29 June, I am certain that [redacted] will not have a chance to act on Project [redacted] until 2 July at the earliest. If he moves the Project forward, as I am reasonably confident he will, the earliest that an approach could be made [redacted] for approval would be approximately 6 through 9 July. If [redacted] System X can at that time move forward with full speed. I would suggest, therefore, that we plan to [redacted] to finish the final report between say 25 June and 9 July, with the hope that in the interval they will not have reassigned their key engineers to other tasks.

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25X1A 3. As I have also mentioned to [redacted] I am hopeful that we will obtain from the latter an identification and cost

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estimate for the long-lead time items for the system so that we might consider their procurement in advance of the final decision which would permit us to invest in the entire system. In any talks [redacted] I would appreciate it if you would stress this last point.

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JAMES A. CUNNINGHAM, JR.  
Acting Assistant Director  
for Special Activities

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OSA/DAD:JACunningham, Jr./mg

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